

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An improved air cleaner comprising:

a lower retaining segment, an upper retaining segment, and a filtration member;

said filtration member having an upper filtration member end and a lower filtration member end, wherein said upper filtration member end is engaged with said upper retaining segment and said lower filtration member end is engaged with said lower retaining segment; and

said lower retaining segment further comprises an air cleaner coupling means for coupling said air cleaner to an air cleaner receptacle; and

said lower retaining segment and said air cleaner coupling means are integrally formed from a single material;

wherein said improved air cleaner is disposable.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The improved air cleaner of claim 1 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises a distal end, a contiguous end, an inner surface, and an outer surface, ~~wherein said contiguous end of said coupling means is adjacent to said lower retaining segment,~~ and said outer surface of said coupling means further comprises a threaded portion between said contiguous end and said distal end.

Claim 3. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 2 wherein said threaded portion of said air cleaner coupling means is removably attachable to a threaded air cleaner receptacle.

Claim 4. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 2 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises an annular groove extending upward from said contiguous end to said distal end, and between said inner surface and said outer surface of said coupling means.

Claim 5. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 4 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises a support member inserted in said annular groove.

Claim 6. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 5 wherein said support member is comprised of an essential component of the air cleaner.

Claim 7. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 5 wherein said support member further comprises an inner filter mesh barrier.

Claim 8. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 7 wherein said inner filter mesh barrier is comprised of metal.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The improved air cleaner of claim 1 [[9]] wherein said single material is urethane.

Claim 11. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 1 wherein said upper retaining segment further comprises a gripping means.

Claim 12. (Original) The improved air cleaner of claim 11 wherein said gripping means further comprises a plurality of scallops on an outer surface of said upper retaining segment.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling an improved disposable air cleaner to an air cleaner receptacle comprising the steps of:

inserting ~~said~~ a coupling means into ~~said~~ a threaded receptacle means; and
rotating ~~said~~ an improved disposable air cleaner within ~~said~~ an air cleaner receptacle until adequately secure[.];

wherein said improved disposable air comprises a lower retaining segment, an upper retaining segment, and a filtration member; said filtration member having an upper filtration member end and a lower filtration member end, wherein said upper filtration member end is engaged with said upper retaining segment and said lower filtration member end is engaged with said lower retaining segment; said lower retaining segment further includes said air cleaner coupling means for coupling said air cleaner to said air cleaner receptacle; and said lower retaining segment and said air cleaner coupling means are integrally formed from a single material;

and wherein said air cleaner receptacle comprises said threaded receptacle means.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method of coupling the improved disposable air cleaner ~~of the present invention~~ to an air cleaner receptacle of claim 13 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises a distal end, a contiguous end, an inner surface, and an outer surface, wherein said contiguous end of said coupling means is adjacent to a lower retaining segment, and said outer surface of said coupling means further comprises a threaded portion between said contiguous end said distal end.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of coupling the improved disposable air cleaner of the present invention to an air cleaner receptacle of claim 14 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises an annular groove extending upward from said contiguous end to said distal end, and between said inner surface and said outer surface of said coupling means, and having a support member inserted in said annular groove.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of coupling the improved disposable air cleaner of claim 15 wherein said support member further comprises an inner filter mesh barrier.

Claim 17. (Original) A method of removing ~~the~~ an improved disposable air cleaner of ~~the present invention~~ from an air cleaner receptacle ~~wherein said improved air cleaner comprises a coupling means and said air cleaner receptacle comprises a threaded receptacle means~~ comprising the steps of:

grasping the air cleaner of the present invention; and

rotating said improved disposable air cleaner within said air cleaner receptacle until disengaged[.];

wherein said improved disposable air comprises a lower retaining segment, an upper retaining segment, and a filtration member; said filtration member having an upper filtration member end and a lower filtration member end, wherein said upper filtration member end is engaged with said upper retaining segment and said lower filtration member end is engaged with said lower retaining segment; said lower retaining segment further includes said air cleaner coupling means for coupling said air cleaner to said air cleaner receptacle; and said lower retaining segment and said air cleaner coupling means are integrally formed from a single material;

and wherein said air cleaner receptacle comprises said threaded receptacle means.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The method of removing the improved air disposable cleaner of the present invention from an air cleaner receptacle of claim 17 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises a distal end, a contiguous end, an inner surface, and an outer surface, wherein said contiguous end of said coupling means is adjacent to a lower retaining segment, and said outer surface of said coupling means further comprises a threaded portion between said contiguous end said distal end.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method of removing the improved disposable air cleaner ~~of the present invention~~ from an air cleaner receptacle of claim 18 wherein said air cleaner coupling means further comprises an annular groove extending upward from said contiguous end to said distal end, and between said inner surface and said outer surface of said coupling means, and having a support member inserted in said annular groove.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method of removing the improved disposable air cleaner ~~of the present invention~~ from an air cleaner receptacle of claim 19 wherein said support member further comprises an inner filter mesh barrier.